

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5893

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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SUBJECT: LABOR UNION SEMINAR KICKS OFF TWENTY- FIFTH
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS OF FINNISH SOVIET
FRIENDSHIP PACT

BEGIN SUMMAR. HIGH- LEVEL ATTENDANCE AND EXTENSIVE
PRAISE OF FINNISH- SOVIET FRIENDSHIP MARKED A TWO- DAY
SEMINAR LAST WEEKEND DEVOTED TO THE 25 TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE FINNISH- SOVIET FRIENDSHIP TREATY. THE PARTICI-
PANTS REASSURED EACH OTHER THAT THE TREATY IS OF LASTING
SIGNIFICANCE AND PERHAPS MORE VALID TODAY THAN EVER
BEFORE. END SUMMARY.

1. THE FIRST MAJOR OBSERVANCE OF THE FINNISH- SOVIET
FRIENDSHIP PACT' S TWENTY- FIFTH ANNIVERSARY WAS A
SEMINAR ORGANIZED BY THE FINNISH TRADE UNION
FEDERATION (SAK) ON MARCH 30-31 AT ITS KILJAVA EDUCATION
CENTER OUTSIDE HELSINKI. THE SEMINAR ATTRACTED HIGH- LEVEL
ATTENDANCE AND NUMEROUS PAEANS WERE MADE TO THE VALUE OF
THE TREATY AND THE IMPORTANCE OF FINNISH- SOVIET FRIENDSHIP.

2. PRESIDENT KEKKONEN WAS PRESENT ON THE FIRST DAY BUT DID
NOT SPEAK. THE SEMINAR WAS OPNED BY SAK CHAIRMAN NILO
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HAMALAINEN WHO WAS FOLLOWED TO THE PLATFORM BY PRIME MINISTER KALEVI SORSA, FOREIGN MINISTER AHTI KARJALAINEN, SOVIET AMBASSADOR VIKTOR MALTSEV, VISITING SOVIET TRADE UNION FEDERATION (AUCCTU) SECRETARY N. N. ROMANOV, SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY CHAIRMAN RAFAEL PAASIO, COMMUNIST PARTY CHAIRMAN AARNE SAARINEN, EDUCATION MINISTER ULF SUNDQVIST AND MANY OTHERS.

3. PRIME MINISTER SORSA SAID, " AN ERA OF FRUITFUL COOPERATION HAS DAWNED IN OUR RELATIONS WITH THE EAST. THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO OFFER ON THE BASIS OF THE FRIENDSHIP PACT A NEW KIND OF ATTITUDE IN THE PRACTICE OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS." FOREIGN MINISTER KARJALAINEN NOTED THAT FINLAND HAS ENJOYED UNPARALLELED CULTURAL COOPERATION WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND THAT FOR A LONG TIME FINLAND WAS THE USSR' S MOST IMPORTANT TRADING PARTNER IN THE WESTERN WORLD. " ONLY IN THE LAST FEW YEARS HAVE WE BEEN FORCED TO SURRENDER THIS POSITION TO MUCH LARGER COUNTRIES SUCH AS JAPAN, WEST GERMANY AND GREAT BRITAIN," KARJALAINEN SAID.

4. THE SPEECHES BY THE UNION LEADERS WERE IN THE SAME VEIN AS THOSE BY THE POLITICIANS WITH APPROPRIATE REFERENCE TO THE ROLE OF WORKING CLASS PEOPLE IN INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP. A CALL FOR AN ALL- EUROPEAN TRADE UNION MEETING UNDER ILO AUSPICES IN EARLY 1974 WAS REPORTED SEPARATELY (HELSINKI 854).
WHITE

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